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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia  
SUBJECT Zidani Most Defenses

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1. Defenses of Zidani Most railroad junction

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a. The above mentioned railroad junction is considered the most strategically important of Yugoslav railroad lines. It is 204 meters above sea level in a canyon at the joining of the Savinja and Sava Rivers. The railroad station is on the northern bank of the Sava River; its yards and installations form a triangle with three bridges over the Savinja River over which double traffic railroad tracks lead from - 1) Trieste-Ljubljana-Zidani Most-Maribor to Vienna, 2) Ljubljana-Zidani Most-Zagreb to Belgrade, and 3) Belgrade-Zagreb-Zidani Most-Gelje to Maribor.

The Zidani Most railroad station was constructed only after great expense, (because of the terrain). The southern-most railroad bridge is constructed of reinforced concrete, and the two remaining bridges to the north are of stone. In 1947, all three bridges were mined in order to destroy all communication facilities mentioned above in the event of unforeseen developments. In an emergency, railroad traffic between Zagreb and Maribor, and between Zagreb and Ljubljana, could be transferred to another available railroad line which, however, would not be entirely satisfactory because of the extra distance and the single track railway.

b. Prior to the recent war, Zidani Most was guarded by three anti-aircraft batteries and one machine gun company. Its personnel were supplied by the 38th Infantry Regiment which was then located in Gelje. During the war, defenses in this locality were strengthened by the German Army, and now are being used by the Yugoslavs. Zidani Most is now guarded by the 1st KNOJ Brigade (approximately 600 men) of the 2nd KNOJ Division.

d. Zidani Most defenses are as follows: (the following numbers correspond to those on the attached sketch)

1. The main bunker is on a little hill west of the Savinja and Sava River junction. It could be manned by 30 men, and is equipped with a wooden tower, 15 meters high, now manned 24 hours a day by KNOJ aircraft observers. There is a telephone switchboard in this bunker with connecting telephones in all other bunkers. There are also two movable turrets, each equipped with one quadruple barrel anti-aircraft gun.

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2. A bunker is on the western end of the Zidani Most railroad station, 200 yards from the main railroad station building. It can be manned with 15 men and has a rotating turret equipped with one quadruple barrel anti-aircraft gun.
3. A bunker is in the garden between the main railroad building and the Zidani Most public school. It can be manned by 15 men and has a rotating turret equipped with one quadruple barrel anti-aircraft gun.
4. A bunker is on the eastern side of the Savinja River, between the southern-most and middle bridge. It can be manned with 15 men and has a rotating turret equipped with one quadruple barrel anti-aircraft gun.
5. A bunker is on the eastern bank of the Savinja River, immediately south of the locomotive stoking shop. The bunker can be manned by 15 men and has a rotating turret equipped with one quadruple barrel anti-aircraft gun.
6. A bunker is north of the main railroad station on a hill 408 meters above sea level, and 804 meters above the main railroad station building. The bunker, which is of wood, can be manned by 15 men and is equipped with a quadruple barrel anti-aircraft gun. There is also an aircraft observer in the bunker.

## 2. Activities in the vicinity of Zidani Most

- a. In December 1947, a former officers' hospital in Rimske Toplice, about 10 kilometers northeast of Zidani Most was turned into a depot for arms and ammunition, and food supplies. At about the same time, 40 small Soviet tanks (type unspecified, weighing about 25 tons each), and an unspecified amount of "katushas" mounted on trucks, arrived on the hospital grounds. Since then the vicinity of Rimske Toplice has been heavily guarded, and is off limits to unauthorized personnel.
- b. In November 1947, a war college for educating political commissars was installed in the Soca Hotel in Rimske Toplice. There are approximately 300 pupils attending this college. Only those who have completed at least four classes of high school are admitted, and they must be at least 16 years old. In addition, it is required that the pupils' families have excellent political backgrounds and the pupils themselves be members of SKOJ. The college is headed by Lt. Col. Vasili Zukov, a Soviet officer [redacted]. He is assisted by five Soviet lecturers. [redacted]

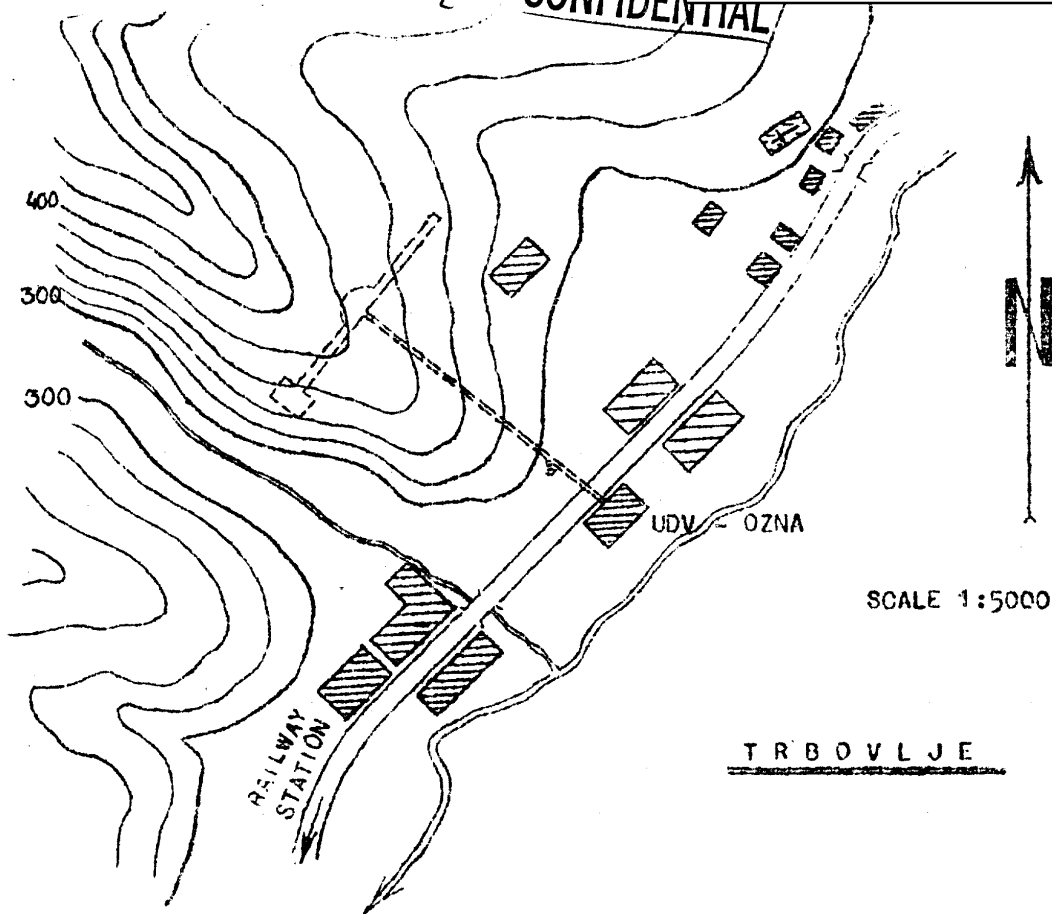
## 3. Defenses of underground AM and military supply depot in Trbovlje

- a. The Trbovlje depot is located underneath Vrhunec Hill northwest of Trbovlje District UDB Headquarters. The depot was originally blasted out by the German army during World War II and was later enlarged by Tito Partisans. It is still being enlarged by Yugoslav authorities. The depot is connected with UDB Headquarters by an underground passage, 250 meters long and two meters high, made of reinforced concrete. It can be entered through the cellar of District UDB Headquarters. The depot itself is also of reinforced concrete and has a second exit opposite District UDB Headquarters.
- b. Immediately after the end of the war, Yugoslav authorities began collecting and storing German arms in this depot. In December 1947, the following types were stored: 40 German-type mine throwers; 300 German machine guns (type M-34 and M-42); an unspecified amount of Panzerfaust; about 200 German MP's (automatic rifles); about 500 German Mauser-type infantry rifles; 50 cases of German hand grenades and various unspecified small ammunition. In addition one carload of UNRRA packages, originally addressed to the civilian population of the Trbovlje district and never delivered, was stored here.
- c. Most of the workmen engaged in enlarging this depot are prisoners convicted of political crimes by the Celje District Court. During December 1947 and January 1948, these prisoners amounted to 400. They are constantly guarded by KNOJ troops.

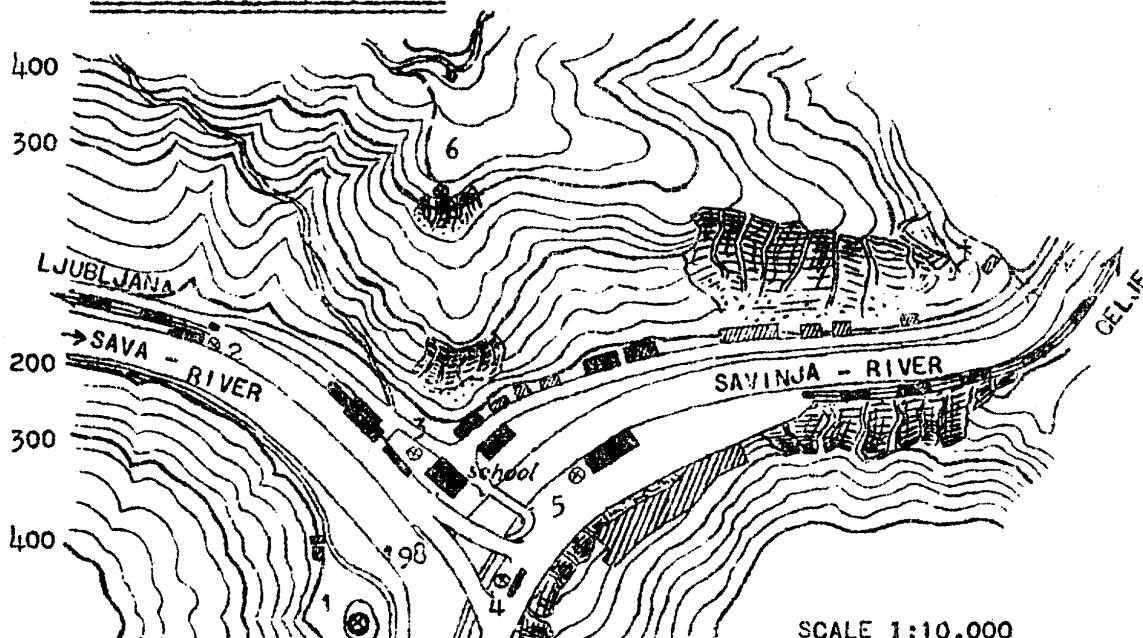
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